

Facility Profile: Mississauga Valley Community Park

Name, location of facility.

Mississauga Valley Community Park, 1275 Mississauga Valley Boulevard, Mississauga, Ontario.

General information regarding the facility.

The park is located in the centre of the city; it is 57.5 acres in size and serves one of the most densely populated neighbourhoods in Mississauga. Facilities within the park include the Community Centre with one ice surface, a swimming/wave pool, fitness facilities with gym, public meeting/party rooms, a public library, and a Region of Peel Daycare facility. The Mississauga Gymnastics facility is also located on this site. Outdoor facilities include a four court bocce facility, a picnic shelter with picnic areas capable of seating up to 1000 users, a water play area, two children's play grounds and a series of woodlot/valley pathway systems linking the area to schools, businesses and parks.

What types of sports fields are on site?

The sport fields include one senior lit and irrigated natural turf soccer field; one lit and irrigated sand-based football field; one lit and irrigated sand-based baseball diamond; one lit and irrigated sand-based soft ball diamond; and one natural multi-purpose ball diamond.

How many employees are involved with turf care at this facility?

The parkland area is maintained by two full time staff, one seasonal (30 hours/week) worker, three student (17 hours/week) labourers and one fall (7 hours/week) labourer, with some assistance from the inside staff.

General Field Information

Permitting. Fields are permitted through our Athletics Section based on 16 games per week (2 per week day/evening and 4 per weekend day) to the groups. They set game schedules. This is an agreed to standard.

Maintenance Season. Maintenance starts mid-May to early June and ends at the end of September.

Types of Use. Permitted for games only, no practices, exceptions being soft-shoe football practices.

Rest Periods. No play scheduled for Fridays, but not always followed by the groups.

Field Conditions. Groups are requested to be responsible for canceling games on "rain-out" fields.

Maintenance

The following is a sample of the required yearly maintenance standards using IPM principals for turf growth required for the lit and irrigated fields.

Lining. One time every two weeks with paint mixture, additional lining requests are charged back to the groups.

Grass Cutting. The turf is cut twice per week at a height of 3".

Aerating. Up to five times per year, core and/or slit operations are used to decrease down time

Fertilizing. Up to five times per year.

Topdressing. At least one time per year with appropriate sand/soil mixtures.

Overseeding. A minimum of one time per year with 85% perennial rye. High wear areas are sodded in the fall with #1 nursery sod.

Dethatching. Done as required.

Litter. Groups are required to clean-up after games and lock the facility.

Irrigation. Fields are not watered on *Water-less Wednesday*, a water conservation program by the Region of Peel.

Has your municipality banned the use of pesticides?

The City of Mississauga adopted a "selective" spray policy about 10 years ago. The "cosmetic" spraying of fields is not acceptable. Staff are able to use spot spraying to control any weed infestations. Only when the safety of the players and/or the possible loss of the field are questioned would a full spraying of the field turf be allowed.

Are community user groups involved or have they been involved in the construction/maintenance of this facility? In what manner?

The Athletics Section meets annually with sport groups to review and update users on past and future needs and concerns. A manager or supervisor may be required to attend, however in most cases, any concerns are brought back to management to address. Our Planning Section is responsible for developing the standards, design and construction of new fields. Input is sought from staff and the sports groups. Any "special" improvements above our standards requested by the group are placed back on the group to pay for or be responsible for the additional maintenance. Clay pitcher mounds are one example. ♦

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